

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-2 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 3 (previously presented):**   An image forming  
2   apparatus comprising:  
3           a body of the image forming apparatus;  
4           an image forming unit which includes a photoconductor  
5   drum, and a developing roller that makes an electrostatic  
6   latent image formed on said photoconductor drum visible by  
7   toner, and which is attached to the body; and  
8           a photoconductor drive shaft which is provided for the  
9   body, and transmits drive power to said photoconductor drum  
10   via splines,  
11          wherein at least one spline of first splines formed  
12   axially on said photoconductor drum and second splines  
13   formed axially on said photoconductor drive shaft is longer  
14   axially than the other splines formed on the same axis  
15          wherein at least one of said first splines is longer  
16   than other first splines, and at least one of said second  
17   splines is longer than other second splines.

1           **Claim 4 (previously presented):**   The image forming  
2       apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein tapers are provided  
3       for a leading end portion of said first spline and a  
4       leading end portion of said second spline in order to  
5       smooth fitting between said photoconductor drum and said  
6       photoconductor drive shaft when said image forming unit is  
7       attached to said image forming apparatus body.

1           **Claim 5 (original):**   The image forming apparatus  
2       according to Claim 4, wherein said tapers are formed in the  
3       axial directions and in the rotational directions of said  
4       photoconductor drum and said photoconductor drive shaft.

1           **Claim 6 (previously presented):**   The image forming  
2       apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said spline  
3       coupling is provided at an end portion of said  
4       photoconductor drum.

**Claim 7 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 8 (previously presented):**   The image forming  
2       apparatus comprising:  
3       a body of the image forming apparatus;  
4       an image forming unit which includes a photoconductor  
5       drum, a charge roller that charges said photoconductor

6 drum, and a developing roller that makes an electrostatic  
7 latent image formed on said photoconductor drum visible by  
8 toner, and which is attached to the body; and

9 a photoconductor drive shaft which is provided for the  
10 body, and transmits drive power to said photoconductor drum  
11 via spline means for transmitting a driving force,

12 wherein said spline means includes facilitating means  
13 for facilitating a connection between said photoconductor  
14 drive shaft and said photoconductor drum,

15 wherein said facilitating means further includes a  
16 spline on said photoconductor drum axially longer than  
17 other splines and a spline on said photoconductor drive  
18 shaft axially longer than other splines.

1 **Claim 9 (previously presented):** The image forming  
2 apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein a taper is formed  
3 on an end of said facilitating means for smoothening said  
4 connection between said photoconductor drive shaft and said  
5 photoconductor drum.

1 **Claim 10 (original):** The image forming apparatus  
2 according to Claim 9, wherein said taper is formed in the  
3 axial directions and in the rotational directions of said  
4 photoconductor drum and said photoconductor drive shaft.

1           **Claim 11 (previously presented):**   The image forming  
2       apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said spline means  
3       is provided at an end portion of said photoconductor drum.